

## Decision Memo

### Toilet at Upper Lost Man/Linkins Lake Trailhead

#### U.S. Forest Service

Aspen-Sopris Ranger District, White River National Forest  
Pitkin County, Colorado  
Township 11S, Range 2W, Section 5  
Project ID# 59483

#### **Decision**

I have decided to implement installation of a toilet at the Upper Lost Man/Linkins Lake trailhead. This trailhead is west of Independence Pass on Highway 82.

The toilet will be placed adjacent to the cut slope/timbered side of the parking area to screen it from the view corridor. It will be a standard CXT structure and will adhere to Forest Service design standards.

#### **Purpose and Need**

The installation of this toilet will address the human waste issues at the Upper Lost Man/Linkins Lake trailhead along the busy Highway 82/Independence Pass corridor.

#### **Reasons for Categorical Exclusion**

This activity falls within a category of actions which normally do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment and, therefore, may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. This category of actions is identified in 36 CFR 220.6 Section (d)(5) "Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities."

I find that there are no extraordinary circumstances that would warrant further analysis and documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. I took into account resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist:

- Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species; The District Biologist determined that there are no anticipated effects to federally listed species that may be present within the project area.
- Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds are avoided with this project.

- Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas; The project is not located at any of these designated areas.
- Inventoried roadless area or potential wilderness area; None are present.
- Research natural areas; None are present.
- American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites; Forest archaeological staff determined there were no known American Indian religious or cultural sites that are present in the project area.
- Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas. The Forest archaeological staff determined that there are no known archaeological or historical sites that will be negatively affected by the implementation of this decision. However, if new archaeological sites are found or located as a result of project implementation, the activity shall cease in the area until Forest archaeological staff evaluated the site and proposes mitigation.

### **Interested and Affected Agencies, Organizations, and Persons Contacted**

The proposal was developed in cooperation with the Independence Pass Foundation and Colorado Department of Transportation. In addition, my Recreation Staff presented the project to WRNF resource specialists via email on February 18, 2021. Informal scoping was done with Pitkin County Road & Bridge on March 11, 2021. This action was originally listed as a proposal on the White River National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) and updated periodically during the analysis. No comments were received.

### **Findings Required by Other Laws and Consistent with Land Management Plan**

This decision is consistent with the White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) as required by the National Forest Management Act. The Management Area (MA) is designated as 4.2 Scenery – scenic byway of the Independence Pass corridor. The project was designed to conform to the Forest Plan. Standards and guidelines will be applied as appropriate to meet Forest Plan goals, objectives, and desired conditions. The project site and anticipated area of impact falls within a previously disturbed parking area.

This decision is compliant with the Endangered Species Act. A biological memo was submitted, and the determination was that there are no federally listed species known or likely to occur within the project area. This document has been included in the official project record.

This decision is compliant with the National Historic Preservation Act. Forest archaeological staff determined there were no known American Indian religious or cultural sites that will be negatively affected by the implementation of this decision.

### **Appeal Opportunities**

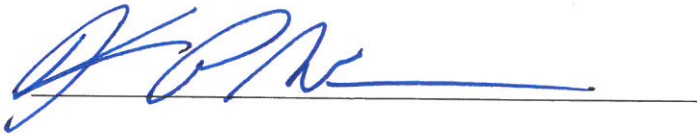
Decisions that are categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are not subject to an administrative review process (pre-decisional objection process) (Agriculture Act of 2014, Subtitle A, Sec. 8006).

## Implementation Date

This project may be implemented upon signature of this Decision Memo and when ground conditions warrant.

## Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Shelly Grail, Recreation Manager, 970-404-3155; shelly.grail@usda.gov



Kevin Warner  
DISTRICT RANGER

4/15/2021

Date

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